

Today the Upper Dublin Lutheran Church still stands as a symbol of service and tradition to the Upper Dublin community. The "Build to Witness" campaign has provided a magnificent new facility for Sunday school and continues to provide spiritual leadership accompanied by devoted community outreach programs. I am confident that the impact the church has had since its establishment will continue in the future. I wish the members of the church continued success and commend them for 250 years of service.

A NEW MEXICO DESERT FLOWER  
FLOR DE LAS FLORES

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I bring to your attention Al Hurricane, a musical legend and the Godfather of New Mexico music. Al Hurricane has brought Norteño music to audiences throughout the Southwest and Mexico for 50 years.

Al Hurricane was born on July 10, 1936 in Dixon, New Mexico. His birth name is Alberto Nelson Sanchez, but his mother gave him his famous nickname because he was like a little "Hurricane," always knocking things over at the dinner table and running through objects in his path.

He began singing when he was 3 and started playing the guitar when he was 5 years old. He was only 12 when he started to sing and play guitar at local restaurants. Throughout his 50 years of music, he formed several bands and played with legendary artists like Fats Domino, Marvin Gaye, Chuck Berry, Jimmy Clanton and Chubby Checker. He has recorded over 40 albums, tapes and CDs. His trademark "black eye patch" is a result of an injury he received in a serious automobile accident. Of course, he was on his way to play at a sold-out performance. The accident and the new eye patch could not stop his music.

While Al Hurricane is known for playing and performing music, like Flor de las Flores, or Sentimiento, we cannot forget his strong commitment to his family and his community. He has eight children, several of whom have followed their father's footsteps into the music business. He has won numerous public service awards such as The Lifetime Achievement Award given to him by the New Mexico Hispanic Awards Association and the Governor's Award for Music. He is currently the State Chairperson for the National Education Association-New Mexico's Read Across America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me and all the residents of New Mexico in honoring and thanking Al Hurricane for 50 years of bringing joy into our lives through his music and his commitment to our community. Here's to another 50 years of Rancheras, Norteñas, and Corridos from the Godfather of New Mexico music, Al Hurricane.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT  
CHEN SHUI-BIAN ON THIRD ANNI-  
VERSARY

HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, in the first peaceful and successful transition of power in Taiwan's history, voters elected Mr. Chen Shui-bian President of the Republic of China on Taiwan. Leading his country's transition from an authoritarian state to a democracy, President Chen has shown to the international community that democracy is indeed alive and able to thrive in a Chinese society like Taiwan. Now in 2003, President Chen has continued to make strides toward full democracy by guaranteeing Taiwan's citizens full constitutional and human rights, which include free elections and a totally free press.

Since his election, President Chen Shui-bian has ardently sought a meaningful dialogue with his counterparts in the People's Republic of China (PRC). He has repeatedly urged them to discuss issues of mutual interest and has talked of sending a delegation to Beijing, further emphasizing his struggle for peace. Unfortunately, China has ignored President Chen's many gestures of friendship and cross-strait dialogue. Positioning hundreds of short-range missiles aimed at Taiwan, China has made it obvious that it does not believe that peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is a priority. We hope Beijing will soon realize that peace and stability in the Strait is indeed in everyone's best interest and will pursue a peaceful resolution of tensions with Taiwan.

We in the United States Congress greatly appreciate Taiwan's overwhelming support for our initiatives both home and abroad throughout the years. Since the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Taiwan has graciously offered assistance to the United States in helping the country fight global terrorism. Assuring Washington of its support in the anti-terrorism effort in Iraq, the Taiwan government issued a statement during Operation Iraqi Freedom supporting the Coalition of the Willing's cause and pledging to offer humanitarian assistance to postwar-Iraq.

Taiwan is currently enduring an outbreak of the alarming disease Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). We wish Taiwan's government every success in their endeavor to fight against this disease and acknowledge the need for Taiwan's representation in the World Health Organization. As Secretary of State Colin Powell stated recently, SARS recognizes no international borders, and Taiwan should be able to utilize every opportunity to contribute to the battle to conquer this disease.

On the third anniversary of President Chen's election, I wish President Chen well and wish Taiwan continued success in gaining a greater international role. The world has much to gain from what Taiwan has to offer, and the United States affirms its support for President Chen and his country.

AMERICA: A POEM BY MARK E.  
CRISPELL

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit the poem of my constituent, Mark E. Crispell of Brooktondale, NY, for submission into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Crispell has dedicated this inspirational work to the House and the Senate.

In addition to his gift to Congress, Mr. Crispell has also been able to donate this poem to various VFW and American Legion chapters across the New York State. It has touched the hearts of all who read it, as it honors the men and women who have risked their lives to protect America.

I commend Mr. Crispell for his creativity as well as his thoughtful gift.

AMERICA

In the valleys and on the hilltops  
you could hear that horrible roar  
thousands of men on horseback  
riding off to war

red coats on the offensive  
us turncoats out of sight  
with our blood and a strong belief  
we fought with all our might

When the war was over  
as the white smoke rolled away  
I cried with pain through tears of loss  
it's Independence Day  
but I'm so young, I'm just a child,  
I don't think I can lead  
I hope my fathers get together  
and write the laws I need

1861, again I heard my fathers say  
mount your horses head for the South  
the South will head this way  
my knees grow weak I could not stand  
and to the floor I knelt  
oh God if you can hear my cry  
remember the pain I felt

The cost of war is so much more  
I said to God that day  
if Your will be satisfied make it go away  
but shots were heard as muskets fired  
and white smoke filled the day  
young boy hollers, I've been hit  
as his brother rides away

When the war was over  
I hung my head and cried  
and asked myself through my tears  
why so many died  
it was then God raised my head  
to see a black man say  
through the pain and tears of loss  
it's Independence Day!

So I pledge allegiance to our flag  
for the wars that I've been through  
I fought more wars as before  
for freedom and for you  
so when from afar you can hear me sing  
"God shed His grace on thee"  
know I'm united under God  
for justice and liberty

I was older now and wiser  
historically in my teens  
but in those days of my youth  
food became so lean  
but even in my darkest hour  
I didn't give up the fight  
I plowed the fields for our next meal  
thanking God for every bite

And in the 20th century  
when at times things seemed their worst  
we embraced the changes  
God bestowed upon us first